



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(RUNNYMEDE)**

**THE CAUSEWAY A308, HYTHE  
PROPOSED NEW PUFFIN CROSSING  
5 OCTOBER 2007**

**KEY ISSUE**

To provide improved crossing facilities on The Causeway, Hythe.

**SUMMARY**

The introduction of a "Puffin" controlled crossing on The Causeway, near to the Centrica Offices

**ELECTORAL DIVISION AND MEMBER**

Egham, Hythe and Thorpe – Mrs Yvonna Lay

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee (Runnymede) is asked to agree that:

- a) **The proposals for a controlled crossing detailed on drawing (ref 5208-01) be approved for construction at no cost to the County Council,**
- b) **the Local Highway Manager be authorised to enter into an appropriate legal agreement with Centrica PLC (or their approved agent) to facilitate the construction of the works,**
- c) **the Local Highway Manager be authorised to advertise the necessary legal notice for the introduction of a signal-controlled crossing.**

## **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 Centrica Plc has approached the local highway service, requesting the introduction of a controlled Puffin crossing near their offices on The Causeway, Hythe. There is an existing pedestrian refuge island, which enables the road to be crossed in two separate stages
- 1.2 There have been requests in the past for a crossing at this location, albeit it has not yet been added to our agreed forward programme of works due to other priorities.
- 1.3 The road is subject to a 40mph speed limit and benefits from an on-carriageway cycleway.
- 1.4 Officers have met with Centrica's appointed consulting engineers (Dennis Wilson Partnership) to consider the options and viability of a crossing.

## **2. Analysis**

- 2.1 In addition to some housing, there are a number of businesses located along The Causeway. The Centrica site is split either side of the road, resulting in a considerable number of pedestrian movements
- 2.2 As with many roads, there are concerns about speeding vehicles. The introduction of a controlled crossing will act as a speed-reducing feature.
- 2.3 The crossing can be safely installed, with no displacement to on-street parking or impact on the capacity of the road. The scheme will undergo the normal safety audit processes.
- 2.4 Centrica Plc have agreed to cover all costs associated with the construction of the crossing, and a commuted sum for future maintenance of the traffic signals.
- 2.5 If the crossing is approved, a legal agreement will be entered into with Centrica to ensure that the County Council's financial position is protected. The works will not be undertaken by our partner Ringway, but will be to the County Council approved standard.

## **3. Options**

- 3.1 There is only one option available if we wish to enter into the agreement with Centrica. This is detailed in drawing 5208-01 shown in annex 1.
- 3.2 This site is suitable, in accordance with the objectives of the Local Transport Plan and is supported by County Officers.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The Divisional Member and Chairman have been advised of the proposal and support the scheme.
- 4.2 Surrey Police have been consulted and they fully support the proposed crossing.
- 4.3 If this Committee approves the scheme, adjoining properties will be advised, and advance notice boards displayed before any construction work to warn drivers of any disruption.

## **5. Value for money and financial implications**

- 5.1 All costs (including legal fees) are to be met by Centrica Plc. A commuted sum will be provided to the County Council for future maintenance.

## **6. Equality and diversity implications**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. Crime and disorder implications**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. Conclusion and recommendations**

- 8.1 A controlled crossing on The Causeway would improve facilities for pedestrians. The crossing would have no discernible drawbacks, and it is consistent with the objectives of the Local Transport Plan.
- 8.2 It is recommended that the Committee approve construction, and for the necessary legal processes to be completed.

## **9. What happens next**

- 9.1 A legal agreement will be entered into with Centrica. This will enable the advertising and construction of the crossing to take place. Subject to all parties accepting the terms, the crossing should be installed this financial year.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None